



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, June 26, 2008
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**BAKERSFIELD BUSINESS OWNER INDICTED FOR DISTRIBUTION AND
POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

FRESNO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that MICHAEL EDWARD TURMAN, 29, of Bakersfield, California was indicted by a federal grand jury, charged with one count of receiving and distributing child pornography and one count of possessing child pornography.

This case is the product of an extensive joint investigation by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) offices in Fresno and Bakersfield.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Sherrill A. Carvalho, who is prosecuting the case, from September 28, 2006 until June 16, 2008, TURMAN possessed, received and distributed images involving the sexual exploitation of minors. On June 16, 2008, ICE agents executed a federal search warrant on TURMAN's residence based on information that he "traded" images of child pornography via the Internet. On-site forensic examination revealed numerous images of child pornography depicting the sexual exploitation of minors contained on his computer hard drives.

TURMAN was arrested on June 16, 2008 on a criminal complaint and taken into federal custody. A detention hearing was held later that day. Following the hearing, Magistrate Judge Theresa A. Goldner ordered him released on home confinement at a residence away from his two young children. TURMAN was ordered to have no contact with any child under the age of 18

years, including his two young children, without the other adult parent or responsible adult present, and only with the pre-approval of the pretrial services officer. The home confinement includes electronic monitoring and a nightly curfew. Further, he was ordered to post a property bond in the amount of \$100,000 to secure his appearance at future court hearings.

If convicted, TURMAN faces up to 20 years in prison and a mandatory minimum of five years in prison for receipt and distribution of material involving the sexual exploitation of minors. Possession of child pornography is punishable by up to 10 years in prison. Both offenses provide for a possible lifetime term of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. The actual sentence will be dictated by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of factors, and will be imposed at the discretion of the court.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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